

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

In this response, Applicants cancelled claims 28-54 and amended claims 55, 57-59, 62-66, 69-76 and 79-80 to more clearly recite the claimed invention and to conform with the laws under US patent practice.

Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed March 14, 2007, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group II, claims 28-80 for examination, with traverse.

Applicants believe that the claims of the remaining group (Group I) are sufficiently related to be examined together, and that such examination would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. M.P.E.P. § 803 states that, if “the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, [then] the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” Therefore, applicants request that the examiner reconsider her position regarding this restriction requirement and examine the claims of Groups I-II as one invention.

In addition, applicants note that a restriction has been required between claims directed to a product and to a process of using the product. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the related methods of treatment claims should the composition claims be found allowable. M.P.E.P. 821.04(b).

In addition, a species election has been required, requiring election of a species directed to a specific disease for treatment according to the pending method claims. Applicants elect rheumatoid arthritis as the specific disease. The examiner, however, is reminded to follow the procedure in M.P.E.P. 803.02 and extend the search to the other species recited in the claims, should the elected species be free of the prior art.

CONCLUSION

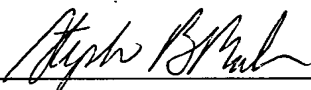
Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Applicant respectfully requests examination on the merits of this application. Should there be any questions concerning this application, Examiner Mertz is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5569
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Stephen B. Maebius
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,264